



SELECTED EXAMPLES OF STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE GUIDANCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION Office of Preservation Initiatives

Disaster Planning and Guidance: Before, During, and After

[How to Plan and Recover from the Damaging Effects of Wind & Water](#) (Alabama)

“The following information will assist those who own and care for older and historic buildings that are at risk of damage from storms and floods.” “Advance preparation prevents property loss and saves historic character at the lowest cost.” (PowerPoint)

[Disasters and Historic Resources](#) (California)

“The destructive impact of natural disasters underscores the critical need to implement disaster preparedness strategies to preserve vulnerable historic buildings and archeological sites. Without established plans for disaster preparedness, emergency response, and recovery, all historic and cultural resources are at risk.”

[Role of the Office of Historic Preservation in Disasters](#)

[Disaster Preparedness Planning: What to Do Before Disaster Strikes](#)

[Disaster Response: What to Do After Disaster Strikes](#)

[Disaster Recovery: What to Do in the Recovery Phase](#)

[Agency Resources & Links](#)

California Historic Property Disaster Response Advice by Category of Responder

[State and Federal Agency Emergency Response Advice](#)

[Local Jurisdiction Emergency Response Advice](#)

[Property Owner Emergency Response Advice](#)

[Guidance for Disaster Mitigation and Recovery for Historic Properties](#) (Florida)

“A lack of preparedness can lead to the damage to or inadvertent loss of historic sites, buildings and structures. Insufficient damage assessments, unsuitable debris management, inappropriate repair, and lack of input from preservation professionals in recovery activities are all contributing factors to the adverse effects of disaster recovery activities. The guidance provided herein includes steps to improve coordination between emergency management and historic preservation efforts, identify potential recovery funding resources and provide best practices for hazard mitigation and planning.”

[After the Flood: Rehabilitating Historic Resources](#) (Georgia)

[Planning for the Unexpected: Disaster Preparedness Guidance for Historic Properties in Idaho](#) General preparedness information, plus special considerations for specific types of disasters, and useful checklists.

[Resilient Heritage: Protecting your Historic Home from Natural Disasters \(2015\)](#) (Louisiana)

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[Elevation Design Guidelines for Historic Buildings in the Louisiana Gulf Opportunity \(GO\) Zones \(2015\)](#)

“Based upon the historic preservation and flood protection requirements established by the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency FEMA), respectively, these Elevation Design Guidelines are intended to inform property owners and local Historic Preservation Commissions (HPCs) of elevation design principles to best ensure that historic properties are mitigated in a manner that protects their historic features. Building upon nationally recognized historic preservation principles described in the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, these Guidelines have been designed to assist and remind members of local HPCs of the issues they should consider when reviewing an elevation project.”

[Flood Mitigation Guide: Maryland’s Historic Buildings](#) (2018)

“This book is designed to help bridge the gap between floodplain management, emergency management, climate adaptation, and historic preservation. It discusses the steps of the emergency management cycle: planning, response, recovery, mitigation, and adaptation, and at its core is geared towards starting conversations between local stakeholders.”

[Planning for Maryland’s Flood-Prone Historic Archeological Resources](#) (2019)

[Thinking About the Unthinkable: A Disaster Plan for Historic Properties in Minnesota](#)

[Disaster planning for historic buildings](#) “Once you have determined the types of natural disasters that may threaten your property or community...you can begin to consider how to protect these resources before, during and after a disaster strikes. Listed first are general guidelines that can apply in a wide range of situations. The illustrated guidelines that follow are grouped into these stages for the various types of disasters.”

The Minnesota SHPO also makes available a checklist for [Historic Property Damage Assessment](#).

[Elevation Design Guidelines For Historic Homes in the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region](#)

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) prepared these guidelines in collaboration with the Mississippi SHPO, and historic preservation commissions in Coastal Mississippi. This guidance was developed “to ensure that recipients of MDA financial assistance programs were able to rebuild structures damaged by Hurricane Katrina in compliance with historic preservation laws and safety considerations. In addition, the guidelines were developed in accordance with a Programmatic Agreement between MDA and the federal government in order to streamline project reviews under the National Historic Preservation Act and expedite federally-funded retrofits. Because Hurricane Katrina destroyed many historical buildings, the document stresses the preservation of those that remain. The guidelines balance the policy goals of risk reduction through elevation against architectural elements that maintain the character of buildings.

“The guidelines were informed by a 2008 [Programmatic Agreement](#) (PA) between MDA and the federal government to improve the state’s ability to implement retrofits funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Community Development Block Grant Program. State actions funded by the federal government must comply with statutes like the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to minimize negative impacts to historical resources. Early in the process to administer funding, MDA and the federal government agreed to a decision-making framework in the PA — which is reflected in the guidelines for property owners — that could simultaneously expedite the review of many grant applications under the NHPA and minimize the negative impacts of retrofits to historic structures. The PA and guidelines, if followed, are an example of how a state can streamline post-disaster environmental compliance for historic structures retrofitted with federal money.”

[Flood Mitigation Guide for Historic Properties](#) (New Jersey)

[Elevation Design Guidelines for Historic Properties](#) (New Jersey)

The New Jersey SHPO used funding from the Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund from Superstorm Sandy to develop guidance documents to assess flood mitigation options and guide elevation projects for historic properties. The New Jersey SHPO has also provided funding to communities to develop local design guidelines, which include elevation and other storm mitigation measures. See for example, [Design Guidelines, Beach Haven, New Jersey](#).

The North Carolina Historic Preservation Office [Disaster Preparedness and Response](#) page provides links to many resources, including a hurricane preparedness checklist.

[Disaster Preparedness, Recovery & Resilience \(Oregon\)](#)

[Community Disaster Resilience Planning for Heritage Resources](#)

“Heritage resources are critical for community health and recovery in a disaster. Check out the model community-wide heritage resource resilience plan, a guidebook to create your own, and the individual organization models.”

[Guidebook](#) – “Use this to assist in creating an organizational plan or a community-wide plan. Appendices include guidance for Tribal, consultation, meeting agenda templates, organization survey questions and plan templates, model community survey, scripts, plan templates, and other resources. The following videos supplement the Guidebook:

- [A Resilience Approach to Disaster Planning for Heritage Resources - Introduction](#)
- [A Resilience Approach to Disaster Planning for Heritage Resources - Cultural Resilience Framework](#)
- [A Resilience Approach to Disaster Planning for Heritage Resources - Data Collection & Engagement](#)
- [A Resilience Approach to Disaster Planning for Heritage Resources - Lessons Learned from Cottage Grove”](#)

[Oregon Wildfire Response and Recovery Resources](#)

[How to Make a Case for Historic Preservation After a Disaster](#) (Wisconsin)

Mapping

[Weathering Maine: Mapping Threats to Maine’s Historic and Cultural Resources](#)

“This GIS map depicts the locations of properties in Maine listed in the National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmarks or museums/archives along with layers depicting potential threats to these properties including flood, fire, sea-level rise, storm surge. The map also shows current NOAA hazards and watches. The MHPC has developed this web application so that as communities, regions, officials and citizens create plans to deal with changing climate, storms, erosion, or other physical threats, historic properties, museums or archives within the subject areas can be identified, evaluated, and their futures contemplated. As irreplaceable, authentic touchstones to our past, these properties merit specialized consideration in the planning processes in order to protect the historic characteristics and associations that give them meaning.”

Training

Three-Part Video Series: 1.5 hour long videos with SHPO and other expert presenters, produced by the New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center.

[Protecting Our Historical and Cultural Assets \(June 2020\)](#) “How can we protect our past from the climate impacts of the future? This discussion is on the available resources and strategies to help preserve our historical assets.”

[Flood Planning & Preparedness for New Jersey Historic Buildings \(Oct. 2020\)](#) “addresses flood types, the National Flood Insurance Program, Flood Insurance Rate Maps, the increasing threat of flooding, and historic preservation as part of the Emergency Management Cycle. This session includes practical guidance for local communities to improve their flood resilience and protect their historic character.”

[Protecting Historic Residences from Flooding – Building Elevations \(Nov. 2020\)](#) “addresses elevating residential buildings within a historic context while maintaining architectural integrity. This session reviews the regulatory basics for historic preservation and climate adaptation and design challenges and best practices that should be considered by owners, architects, and historical commissions.”

Technical Assistance

[Maine Historic Properties Toolkit](#)

“The Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) has established this page to assist entities throughout the state with planning for the effects of climate change on historic properties and cultural resources through the process of identification, adaption, resiliency and mitigation.”

[Weather It Together](#) (Maryland)

“To help protect historic places, archeological sites, and cultural landscapes from the effects of natural hazards, the Maryland Historical Trust offers a Weather It Together program, providing technical assistance to aid local governments in three key areas: hazard mitigation planning, disaster response and recovery, and climate change adaptation.”